

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

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R 121400Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9164

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

\$/USMISSION NATO 3626

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

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DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS ON GREEK-TURKISH CONTACTS, NATO,
AND THE ARMS EMBARGO

1. ALTHOUGH DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS FORMED THE
DOMINANT FOCUS OF ATTENTION IN THE TURKISH MEDIA THIS
WEEKEND (MAY 10-11) AND IN MONDAY EDITIONS (MAY 12), SEVERAL
REPORTS OF INTEREST CONCERNING TURCO-GREEK DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS,
NATO, AND THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ALSO APPEARED.

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2. OVER THE WEEKEND, FRONT PAGE STORIES IN SEVERAL PAPERS

REPORTED THAT IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN MINISTERS CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS WOULD MEET BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS AT THE END OF THE MONTH. THESE STORIES WERE BASED ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF A PRESS CONFERENCE IN ROME GIVEN BY BITSIOS, WHO REPORTEDLY CALLED A MEETING "PROBABLE." WEEKEND EDITIONS OF SEVERAL PAPERS ALSO CARRIED AN ATHENS DATELINED STORY SAYING THAT A GREEK GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HAD SAID KARAMANLIS AND PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL WOULD MEET IN BRUSSELS. MILLIYET, HOWEVER, REPORTED THAT DEMIREL SAID HE WAS "UNAWARE" THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE.

3. IN OTHER STORIES CONCERNING TURCO-GREEK CONTACTS, HURRIYET REPORTED MONDAY THAT QUESTIONS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE HAD BEEN DECIDED AT MEETINGS IN GENEVA, BUT THAT THE PLACE AND DATE OF A CAGLAYANGIL-BITSIOS MEETING HAD NOT YET BEEN AGREED UPON. REPORTEDLY, A MAY 17 MEETING IN ROME WAS BEING DISCUSSED. CUMHURIYET CARRIED AN EXCLUSEVE INTERVIEW WITH CAGLAYANGIL IN WHICH HE SAID THAT IF AMEETING WITH BITSIOS DID IN FACT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NATO SUMMIT, IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY TO TAKE SOME QUESTIONS TO THE HAGUE. CAGLAYANGIL ALSO SAID THAT A FINAL DECISION ON CYPRUS WOULD BE MADE AS STATE POLICY AFTER SEEKING OPPOSITION'S AGREEMENT.

4. HURRIYET GAVE TOP FRONT PAGE PLAY TO TWO STORIES CONCERNING NATO IN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY EDITIONS. IN THE FIRST, HURRIYET ALLEGED THAT A TURKISH REPORT TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OUTLINING EQUIPMENT DEFICIENCIES RESULTING FROM THE ARMS EMBARGO HAD INADVERTENTLY BEEN PASSED TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. THE STORY SAID THAT ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO ANKARA, SECGEN LUNS HAD APOLOGIZED TO TURKISH AUTHORITIES FOR THE "MISTAKE." IN ITS TOP STORY SUDNAY, HURRIYET SAID THAT A REPORT PREPARED FOR THE NATO DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING IN BRUSSELS PAINTED A PESSIMISTIC PICTURE OF THE SITUATIONOF THE SIXTH FLEET IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE STORY SAID THAT A REPORT FOR THE PENTAGON PREPARED BY ADMIRAL FREDERICK TURNER OUTLINED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FLEET IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AS A RESULT OF THE CLOSING OF CERTAIN U.S. INSTALLATIONS IN GREECE AND THE POSSIBLE CLOSING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BASES IN TURKEY.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, MR. CAGLAYANGIL REPORTEDLY TOLD CUMHURIYET IN THE INTERVIEW NOTED ABOVE THAT NO RETALIATORY ACTIN WOULD BETAKEN BY TURKEY UNTIL AFTER THE NATO SUMMIT. (SEE SEPTTEL).
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